

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SSC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /060 W

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R 201414Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMCONSUL LUANDA

SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 967

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: NEW INFORMATION AND DEFENSE MINISTERS APPOINTED

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED AFTER MEETING FEB. 19
APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND INFORMATION,
PORTFOLIOS DELEGATED TO MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VITOR
ALVES SINCE LAST NOVEMBER.

2. NEW DEFENSE MINISTER IS ADMIRAL SILVANO RIBEIRO, AGE 50,
MEMBER OF NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA (JSN) SINCE OCT. 8, 1974
WHEN HE REPLACED ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO WHILE LATTER SERVED
AS ANGOLAN HIGH COMMISSIONER. RIBEIRO'S SPECIFIC JUNTA
RESPONSIBILITIES ON JSN WERE TO PRESIDE OVER WORK OF COM-
MITTEE FOR EXTINCTION OF DGS (FORMER POLITICAL POLICE). RIBEIRO
IS AN ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE EXPERT. HE ENTERED NAVAL SERVICE
IN 1943, TAUGHT AT NAVAL ACADEMY (1969-73), SERVED AS CABINDA
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MARTIME DEFENSE CAPTAIN FROM SEPT. 1973-APRIL 1974, AND THERE-

AFTER SERVED AS CHIEF OF CABINET TO NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL PINHEIRO AZEVEDO. NEW MINISTER HAS HAD SOME UNIVERSITY TRAINING AT OPORTO, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN, AND HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE AS WELL AS THE CONGO, DUTCH WEST INDIES AND US. HE RECEIVED UNDERWAY SONAR TRAINING IN SAN DIEGO IN 1956.

3. NEW INFORMATION MINISTER IS COMMANDER JORGE CORREIA JESUINO, 41. UNIVERSITY TRAINED AND 1955 GRADUATE OF NAVAL ACADEMY, JESUINO HAS SERVED IN MACAU, TIMOR, AND CAPE VERDE, AND IS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST. BEFORE COUP, JESUINO POSTED TO OFFICE OF NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF. AFTER APRIL 25, HE WAS APPOINTED JSN DELEGATE FOR INFORMATION AND LATER MEMBER OF AD HOC PRESS COMMITTEE. HE WAS SLATED TO REPLACE MAJ. SANCHES OSORIO AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR INFORMATION IN LATE JULY 1974, BUT CHOSEN INSTEAD TO BECOME SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION IN ANGOLA, A JOB WHICH HE HELD UNTIL NEW TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT NAMED. JESUINO IS A CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF ROSA COUTINHO AND WELL THOUGHT OF IN NAVY. HE REPORTEDLY HAS SPECIAL INTEREST IN PHILOSOPHY AND LIKES HERBET MARCUSE AND LEIBNIZ IN PARTICULAR.

4. COMMENT: MINISTERIAL CHAANGE IN WID FOR LAST FEW WEEKS. NOTEWORTHY ABOUT THIS CHANGE IS THAT DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE), ANGLING FOR A CABINET SLOT, DID NOT MAKE IT INTO GOVERNMENT, NOR WAS CONCEICAO E SILVA, LEFTIST NAVAL OFFICER AND CURRENT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, UPGRADED TO INFORMATION MINISTER. WHAT THESE CHANGES MEAN IN TERMS OF FUTURE ROLE OF VITOR ALVES IS UNCLEAR. ALVES HAS TOLD FRIENDS IN PAST WEEKS THT HE EXPECTED TO LOSE SOME OF HIS POWERS AND THAT HE IS COMING UNDER INCREASING ATTACK FROM MORE LEFTIST ELEMENTS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. CHANGES MAY BE PART OF SOME LARGER COMPROMISE BETWEEN LEFT AND MORE MODERATE FACTIONS OF AFM.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR LUANDA, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MATERIAL YOU MAY HAVE ON JESUINO'S ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA. CARLUCCI

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: LUANDA STATE
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